



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,413	11/21/2001	Nancy Allbritton	CAL01-005-US	6314
43320	7590	05/12/2006	EXAMINER	
EVAN LAW GROUP LLC 566 WEST ADAMS, SUITE 350 CHICAGO, IL 60661			BRUSCA, JOHNS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1631	

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/990,413	ALLBRITTON ET AL.	
	Examiner John S. Brusca	Art Unit 1631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 66-85 and 88-100 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 83-85 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 66,67,69,70,75-77,82,88-91,99 and 100 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 68,71-74,78-81 and 92-98 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/16/2004.
 - 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 - 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 - 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 83-85 remain withdrawn as noted in the Office action mailed 03 June 2004. The Office action mailed 19 September 2005 improperly indicated that claim 83 was examined on the merits. The Office regrets any inconvenience this may have caused the applicants. The claim listing filed 21 March 2006 properly lists claim 83 as in withdrawn status.
2. This Office action is a non-final action due to new grounds of rejection under obviousness-type double patenting not necessitated by an amendment.

Specification

3. The objection to the abstract in the Office action mailed 19 September 2005 is withdrawn in view of the amendment to the abstract filed 21 March 2006.

Priority

4. The claim for domestic priority in the amendment filed 21 March 2006 has been entered and is accepted in view of the applicants explanation of the typographical error in the specification at the time of filing and the correction of the relationship of the three claimed applications. The effective filing date for the instant application is 06 March 1998.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The rejection of claims 66, 67, 75, 76, 78, 79, 82, 86, 91, 92, 93, and 99 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al. in the Office action mailed 19 September 2005 is withdrawn in view of the amendment to the claims filed 21 March 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The rejection of claims 66, 68-70, and 72 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. in the Office action mailed 19 September 2005 is withdrawn in view of the amendment to the claims and the claim for priority filed 21 March 2006.

Double Patenting

7. The rejection of claims 66, 67, 69, and 70 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 54, 56, 58, 62, and 63 of Application No. 10/779917 in the Office action mailed 19 September 2005 is withdrawn in view of the abandonment of Application No. 10/779917.

8. The provisional rejection of claims 66, 67, and 80-82 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 48, 50, 51, 59, and 70 of copending Application No. 09/945396 in the Office action mailed 19 September 2005 is withdrawn in view of the amendment to the claims filed 21 March 2006.

9. The rejection of claims 66, 67, and 80-82 under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) because the applicant did not invent the claimed subject matter in the Office action mailed 19 September 2005 is withdrawn in view of the amendment to the claims filed 21 March 2006.

10. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686

Art Unit: 1631

F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

11. An obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but an examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined claim is either anticipated by, or would be obvious over, the reference claim(s). see, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

12. Regarding use of the specification in obviousness-type double patenting rejections, the MPEP states in section 804:

When considering whether the invention defined in a claim of an application is an obvious variation of the invention defined in the claim of a patent, the disclosure of the patent may not be used as prior art. This does not mean that one is precluded from all use of the patent disclosure.

The specification can always be used as a dictionary to learn the meaning of a term in the patent claim. *In re Boylan*, 392 F.2d 1017, 157 USPQ 370 (CCPA 1968). Further, those portions of the specification which provide support for the patent claims may also be examined and considered when addressing the issue of whether a claim in

Art Unit: 1631

the application defines an obvious variation of an invention claimed in the patent. *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 441-42, 164 USPQ 619, 622 (CCPA 1970). The court in *Vogel* recognized “that it is most difficult, if not meaningless, to try to say what is or is not an obvious variation of a claim,” but that one can judge whether or not the invention claimed in an application is an obvious variation of an embodiment disclosed in the patent which provides support for the patent claim. According to the court, one must first “determine how much of the patent disclosure pertains to the invention claimed in the patent” because only “[t]his portion of the specification supports the patent claims and may be considered.” The court pointed out that “this use of the disclosure is not in contravention of the cases forbidding its use as prior art, nor is it applying the patent as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 103, since only the disclosure of the invention claimed in the patent may be examined.”

13. Claims 66, 67, 69, 70, 75-77, 82, 88-91, 99, and 100 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3, 4, 6, 9, and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,201. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,201 are generic with respect to the number of enzymes analyzed and U.S. Patent No. 6,335,201 provides guidance in column 7, lines 16-18 for simultaneous use of multiple reporter substrates. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,201 to use four or more substrates simultaneously in view of the above mentioned guidance to use multiple substrates simultaneously. Regarding instant claim 91, the cell of claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,201 inherently comprises a portion of a cell.

14. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

15. Claims 66, 67, 69, 70, 75-77, 82, 88-91, 99, and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) because the applicant did not invent the claimed subject matter.

For the reasons discussed above, it is apparent that U.S. Patent No. 6,335,201 contains claimed subject matter in claims 3, 4, 6, 9, and 12 that is not patentably distinct from instant claim 1. Because the inventive entity of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,201 is different from the instant application, a rejection is appropriate under 35 U.S.C. 102(f). This rejection could be overcome by amendment of the appropriate claims so that the claims are patentably distinct, or by filing a declaration signed by the inventors of the rejected claimed subject matter stating the inventive entity for the commonly claimed subject matter is identical.

16. Claims 66, 67, 69, 70, 75, 76, 82, 88-91, 99, and 100 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 17, and 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,497. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,497 are drawn to oncoprotein species of substrate target and are generic with respect to the number of enzymes analyzed and U.S. Patent No. 6,740,497 provides guidance in column 8, lines 22-24 and claim 15 for simultaneous use of multiple reporter substrates. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,497 to use four or more substrates simultaneously in view of the above mentioned guidance to use multiple substrates simultaneously. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,497 to use four or more substrates simultaneously in view of the above mentioned guidance to use multiple substrates simultaneously. Regarding instant claim 91, the cell of claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,497 inherently comprises a portion of a cell.

Allowable Subject Matter

17. Claims 68, 71-74, 78-81, and 92-98 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

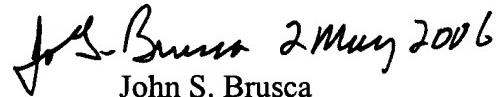
Conclusion

18. Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center at (800) 786-9199. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John S. Brusca whose telephone number is 571 272-0714. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached at 571 272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John S. Brusca
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1631

jsb